

CHALKBOARD

A Publication of the Region II HSD/GED Taskforce



Region 2 Staff Attends First Learning Disability Training

Academic managers and center directors were the first to participate in national learning disability training during a conference in Philadelphia on Feb. 8.

Job Corps disABILITY is a new program designed to provide Job Corps staff the training and technical assistance they need to support students with disabilities. A Web site, <http://jcdisability.jobcorps.gov>, has been launched and a just-in-time hotline (877) 316-0501 has been activated to provide around-the-clock assistance.



Information You Should Know

<http://jcdisability.jobcorps.gov>

Just-in-time hotline: (877) 316-0501

A full assessment will take place regarding how Job Corps works with students with disabilities. Twelve centers across the nation will be visited to review how data is collected and reported, to observe instruction in the classroom and to assess the TABE testing process and recommend possible alternatives for students with disabilities.

Guidelines for supporting students with disabilities:

- Know what to look for to identify learning disabilities – Individual Education Plans (IEPs), psychological reports, transcripts, certificates or alternative diplomas, medical records and information from social intake interviews.
- Recognize code words that do not usually fall under general education descriptions and may indicate a learning disability – basic, remedial, resource, consumer, functional skills, learning strategies and study skills.
- Contact applicants for a further assessment when possible.
- Work with the interdisciplinary team (IDT) to create an accommodation plan before the student arrives on center.
- Meet regularly with the IDT to review accommodation plans and make adjustments when necessary.
- Create standard operating procedures (SOP) for supporting students with disabilities.
- Review disclosure policies and reasonable accommodations with all staff.
- Create a referral system for students who disclose learning disabilities after arriving on center.
- Look for state, district and local partnerships for funding and support.
- Be aware of students' learning styles, cultural and gender influences, time management skills and behavior.

Regional Update:

Literacy and Numeracy Initiative

Both the regional and national offices continue to focus on improving student literacy and numeracy. Regional Director Lynn Intrepidi spoke at a recent conference in Philadelphia about how workplace requirements are changing and how Job Corps must evolve to respond to those changes.

Intrepidi shared some remarkable

industry statistics and facts that illustrate how the workforce is changing:

- **In 1973, high school dropouts held 51 percent of factory jobs. By 2000 this figure was reduced to only 19 percent.** – The Education Trust
- **Employers are hiring industry-certified workers to ensure that they**

are hiring skilled workers. – League for Innovation in Community Colleges

- **Occupations that used to offer solid careers are in decline, while positions once unheard of are now among the fastest growing.** – DOL Occupational Handbook

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In 2005 the region announced a new study with two academic consultants, Dr. Jeanine Staples and Dr. Angela McIver. The consultants have been observing classroom instruction and curricula, reviewing how Job Corps assesses students' learning through the TABE tests and developing professional development opportunities for Job Corps staff members. A Feb. 7 presentation to academic managers in Philadelphia reviewed what it means to be literate and to have numeracy.

Definition of literacy: Being adept at critical reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Definition of numeracy: Ability to conceptualize numbers in ways that make reasoning and problem-solving possible.

The consultants also shared the breakdown of the reading and math sections of the TABE test. Instructors should consider the time spent on each section according to the breakdown of the TABE test. Please refer to the pie charts below.

Emphasizing Literacy and Numeracy in the Classroom

Academic Instructor Nicole Metzke works in creative ways to emphasize literacy to her advanced reading classes at Keystone Job Corps Center. When an instructor at the center was summoned for jury duty, Metzke used a jury duty form as reading material. She also has students choose a lawyer from the classified ads.



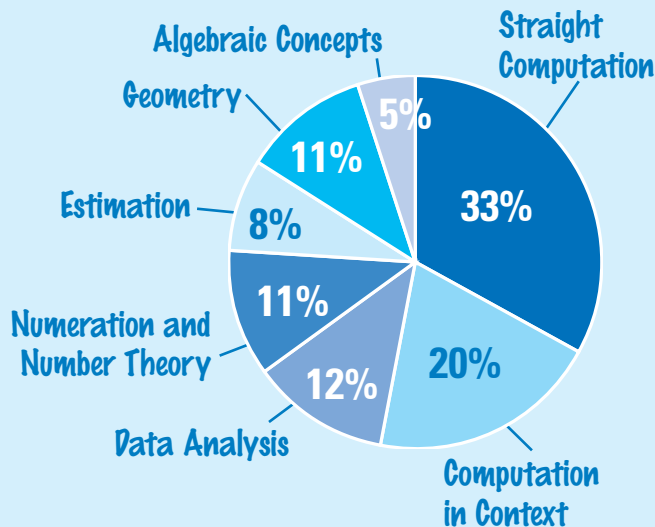
"Every week I incorporate real-life reading skills in the classroom," said Metzke. "I try to find something students will actually encounter in their everyday lives."

Before teaching advanced reading, Metzke used a creative approach with her advanced math students. When she moved from Las Vegas, Nev., in 2005, she brought her blackjack table and roulette wheel to help students with probability and statistics. Not only did this tactic help students with math, they had fun while learning.

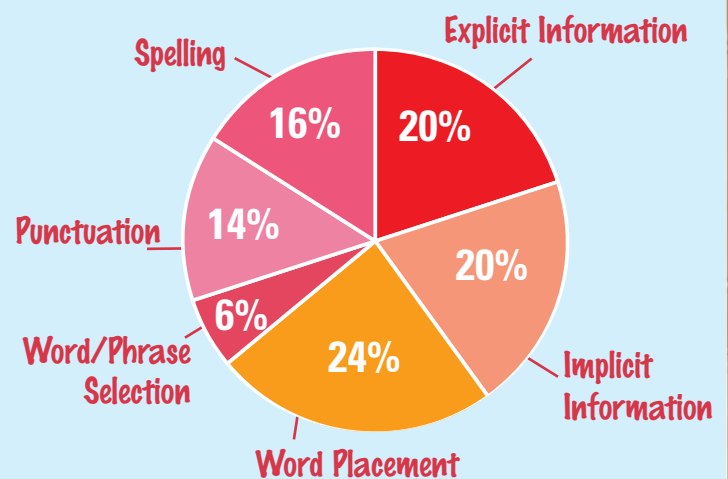
Have an interesting teaching method or tip to share with other instructors? Please e-mail cgurney@mpf.com with your story ideas.

TABE Content Analysis

In Regard to Numeracy



In Regard to Literacy



National Update on the TABE

The National Office has acquired the license for the TABE 9/10 test. Lynne Fry from the Division of National Program Planning and Development in the Job Corps National Office recently discussed the challenges and rewards of switching to TABE 9/10 at a conference in Philadelphia. Feedback from the region is welcome. If you would like to provide feedback on the transition, please e-mail your thoughts to Joe Nagel at nagel.joseph@dol.gov.

The National Office will launch a pilot program to evaluate the TABE 9/10 test in September and expects to roll out the new test across the country in June 2007.

Job Corps Partnerships with High Schools and Community Colleges

Job Corps centers across the region are finding success in partnerships for high school diplomas and college credits. These partnerships help to expand educational resources for Job Corps students. If you are looking to build a partnership, these examples may help you learn how to get started:

Muhlenberg Career Development Center/ Muhlenberg County School System

Since August 2002, more than 220 Muhlenberg Career Development Center students have received high school diplomas through the center's partnership with the Muhlenberg County School System. Two full-time county high school teachers and one part-time teacher's aide conduct class on center every day. The school board pays for all textbooks and salaries. In return, Muhlenberg CDC allows students from local high schools to take skills-training classes at the center. These students officially enroll in Job Corps as nonresidential students, and the county provides the transportation to the center.

This partnership is a win-win situation. Job Corps students work toward their high school diplomas, and the county receives the average daily attendance money for all students under 21 and pays for the overhead costs of the program.

Through this partnership, Job Corps students also get

hands-on skills training through projects, such as foundation work on a greenhouse at the local high school or building a track around the high school football field.

Community College of Allegheny County/ Pittsburgh Job Corps Center

The Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) and Pittsburgh Job Corps Center (PJCC) have been partners in education since 1979. PJCC students benefit from the college's vocational programs and the variety of certificates, diplomas and associate degrees available. PJCC currently has more than 20 off-center training (OCT) programs at CCAC, and approximately half of the Job Corps student population attends OCT classes at the college.

Not only does this partnership extend Job Corps' career technical offerings, it also helps the college fulfill enrollment requirements and placement goals. McNeely Pigott & Fox is offering assistance in finding community college partnerships. Please e-mail Laura Lee at llee@mpf.com for more information.



Calendar of Events

Academic Olympics Planning Meeting

April 13-14

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Lexington, Ky.

www.lexington.hyatt.com

Each participating center must send at least one representative to the meeting.

Reading and Math Training

July 10-14

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

Reaching "At-Promise" Students Second Annual Conference by SIATech

July 10-12

San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina, San Diego, Calif.

<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/SANDT>

For information visit <https://www.siatech.org/summit>.

Academic and Career Olympics District Competition

Aug. 23

Academics Managers Meeting

Oct. 3, Ocean City, Md.

Academic and Career Olympics Final Competition

Oct. 4, Ocean City, Md.